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GENERAL BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HEARS REPORT ON CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

The Honorable Ernest A. Gross, chairman of the recent World Order Study Conference reorted on its achievements at the December meeting of the General Board of the N.C.C. in hicago. The November issue of this Newsletter gave summaries and excerpts from the addresses made at the Conference and described its organization. The Conference's Message to he Churches appeared in National Council Outlook for December 1958 and is being printed in he Conference Report together with resolutions and section reports. Readers of this Newsetter will also be interested in the article "The Apostasy of Silence," by Dr. Harold C. etts in the January 1959 issue of the Outlook.

There was agreement in the Conference, in the unanimously adopted Message and in resoutions, on "the imperative need of concentration on the prevention rather than the limitaion of war;" on the major importance of progress toward universal disarmament; on the need o support, sustain and enhance the United Nations; on the necessity of making stronger efforts to "break through the present stalemate and find ways of living with the communist nations;" on more imaginative foreign economic programs with greater emphasis on multilateral processes; continued strong support for human rights, as in implementing the Supreme Court decisions on school integration and ratification of the Genocide Convention; and other matters.

Considerable public discussion has taken place regarding the paragraph in the Message urging "reconsideration by our government of its policy in regard to the People's Republic of China." It was recommended that steps "be taken toward the inclusion" of this government in the UN, and for its recognition by our government. It was emphasized that this would not imply approval of the Chinese government, and that "the rights of the people of Taiwan and Korea should be safeguarded." The disadvantages to the U.S. and to the international community of the present situation were explained. Two proposals to amend this section of the Message were supported by less than 25% of those voting. They favored more specific listing of the conditions to be imposed on recognition of the Chinese government.

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GENERAL BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES HEARS REPORT ON CLEVELAND CONFERENCE (cont'd)

After hearing Mr. Gross's report, the General Board, which represents the 33 constituent communions of the National Council, made the following significant comments:

"1. The recent World Order Study Conference, speaking for itself and not for the Council nor for its member churches has put into public discussion issues of high moral and spiritual, as well as political, significance. The members of the conference, two-thirds of whom were lay persons, were a highly representative cross-section of the member churches of the National Council. More than this, they were in their own persons broadly representative of the interest and competence of the national Protestant community in foreign affairs. They spoke for no one but themselves, but they spoke with a mighty voice.

"2. What has often been said must be said again. The Christian churches of the United States and their Councils not only have the right but also the duty to study and comment upon issues, no matter how controversial, in the realm of politics, economics, and social affairs, in view of their common faith in Jesus Christ as both Lord and Savior. For all matters of concern for human beings are matters of concern to the churches and to the churches' Lord. The Study Conference at Cleveland has performed a valuable function in helping the churches and their members carry forward the process of the American people's development of their foreign policy.

"3. If and when in this process it appears that specific pronouncements in any area of international affairs should be made by the National Council of Churches, such pronouncement will be developed by the responsible departments and divisions of the Council for adoption by the General Board.

"4. We call upon our constituency and all American citizens to study carefully the full text of the message of the Cleveland Conference, and later, when available, its full report, to the end that reasoned progress may be made by the people of the United States and their government toward solving the serious problems faced by our nation in its foreign relations."

DESECRATION OF HOUSES OF WORSHIP AND BOMBING OF SCHOOLS DEPLORED

At the same meeting, the General Board expressed its feeling of shock over the desecration of houses of worship and the bombing of schools in different parts of the country. It deplored the spirit of lawlessness behind these acts, as well as the climate of fear and intimidation that precipitated them. The resolution expressed the earnest desire "that all Christians be alerted anew to their responsibility for an active and positive witness in behalf of law and order and the establishment of justice and peace without distinction as to race, religion, or national origin," and commended to the churches for their consideration a letter addressed to the President of the United States by Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, President of the National Council of Churches.

Dr. Dahlberg's letter of October 17, 1958 took note of the fact that since the bombings have occurred in several states, they appear to require the attention of Federal authorities, and urged the initiation of appropriate legislation in the next session of Congress to prohibit the use of explosives for such purposes. He also urged that the President use his good offices to set up an investigation of possible underground hate organizations which would be "a danger to the safety and security of all the people." The letter continued:

"The moral and spiritual forces of the nation are anxious to give every support to you and the Executive Branch of the Government in dealing with this threat to our liberties. I hope that you will make the maximum use of the moral and spiritual forces of the country to aid in dealing with this matter."

NEW TRENDS IN MISSION FIELD SET NEW PATTERNS

"In the true mission of the church, planning and leadership must be international, interracial and interdenominational." This statement in a report prepared for the annual assembly of the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches reveals the developing character of world mission work. The Rev. Virgil A. Sly, Council vice-president for the Division, and assembly keynoter, urged the churches to unify their efforts abroad and to recognize the growing role of the "younger churches" in the mission field.

The assembly recorded "deep concern" over racial conflict and divisions in the United States and held that what happens at home "invalidates to some degree our Christian witness abroad." A report showed that the largest number of missionaries from the U.S. work in southern, southeast and east Asia; that more North American mission boards (97) are represented in Japan than in any other country; and that the greatest increase has been in sub-Sahara Africa, where the percentage of U.S. missionaries rose from 23.8 in 1952 to 31.87 in 1958.

RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY MESSAGE ASKS VIGOROUS ANSWER TO MICAH'S QUESTION

"...What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" This is the heart of the Message for Race Relations Sunday, February 8, 1959, from the President of the National Council of Churches.

"Micah's questions," said Dr. Dahlberg, "calls for an immediate and vigorous answer in our time, particularly in the field of race relations. The Supreme Court decree outlawing segregation in the public schools came like a burst of sunlight and hope to millions of people who had been denied justice and equality in education. Now the clouds of fear and violence have rolled over the entire American scene. They darken our efforts toward integrated housing, education, recreation, industry and religion. They threaten our integrity and our unity as a nation. They shadow the witness for Christ in the non-Christian world. Every racial incident, whether in Chicago, New York, Montgomery or Little Rock, hits the headlines in every continent on the globe, embarrassing the churches, shaking the faith of newer Christians, and undermining the fundamental values of our society."

The message charges that Christians have too long accepted a "system riddled by prejudice and injustice" with the result that children, born without prejudice, are being "poisoned" by the prejudices and actions of adults. No one section of the nation should be blamed, it holds, but "we must accept responsibility as one nation under God to bring about justice and equality for all people."

"Experience has made it abundantly clear," the message continues, that where people associate freely without regard to race, there is ultimately a more wholesome community, a more responsible citizenship, and an enriched culture. The churches must take the lead in bringing this to pass. They must set their own houses in order.... All of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Racial segregation is sin.... If we have been redeemed through Christ, and know the truth that makes us free, we are moved 'to do justice and to love kindness.'"

Suggestions were made by the Department of Racial and Cultural Relations for action by local congregations within their own churches and in their communities, especially regarding integration in the churches and in the public schools. The Department's executive director, the Rev. Dr. J. Oscar Lee, proposed that the churches and their members use Race Relations Sunday or some other period during Brotherhood Month to mark the tenth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "The concern of the churches to do justice," Dr. Lee declared, "is intimately bound up with the challenge to establish basic human rights for all people."

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

On December 4, 1958 the General Board of the National Council of Churches adopted a Commemorative statement on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations. The statement urged rededication to the furtherance of human rights. A part of the text follows:

"Upon this Tenth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. salutes that notable advance in human history: the common recognition of the dignity and worth of the human person and of the rights and duties deriving therefrom.

"As Christians, we base our concern for human rights on our conviction that the worth and rights of man are inalienable endowments given by God, the Creator and Redeemer. In broad cooperation, we join our voices and wills with other groups and men of good will in this worldwide celebration of the historic event and in our acceptance of the present challenge toward more universal fulfillment of the Declaration's hopes for humanity.

"We call upon our churches and their members to observe this Tenth Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10 with appropriate recognition of that date.

"More especially we urge that in celebrating this event our churches and their members, beginning in their own neighborhoods, rededicate themselves to the furtherance of human rights among all the people of this land and throughout the world.

"What we seek for ourselves we would seek for all men as their inherent, God-given right. We pledge ourselves anew to pray and work for the day when all shall enjoy such freedom and accept such responsibilities as were declared in the Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thus we rededicate ourselves to ennobling human life in all lands and furthering the growth of a world wherein abide freedom, justice and peace."

At the same meeting, Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, former president of the National Council urged Americans to create such a climate of opinion and good will that their government will take a more active role among the nations in developing standards of human rights. Dr. Blake lauded the progress made in human rights throughout the world in the ten years since the Declaration was adopted. At the same time, he pointed out that American rejoicing at achievements must be mixed with chagrin because of the increase in bitterness, violence and repression since the Supreme Court decision on desegregation."

As to further steps in promoting human rights, Dr. Blake called on the United States to ratify the Genocide Convention, which 58 nations have already approved. Other conventions for the enforcement of human rights that have been drafted by UN agencies should be considered on their merits by the U.S. Senate, he declared. "So long as we citizens allow chauvinism and fear to dominate so much of the popular mind of our nation, our government will continue to be hesitant to take steps deemed politically unpopular."

Dr. Blake pointed out that "despite our vaunted freedoms and high standard of living, there are some areas of human rights which we have really never tried to implement." He said that higher education is not yet "equally accessible to all on the basis of merit nor can we claim that all our citizens receive equal protection of the law."

ROUND-UP OF THE 13th GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The thirteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly adjourned at midnight, December 13, 1958. It had been an arduous session, as is usually the case. Some people have declared that it was dull, but this is preferable to the acrimony of some previous sessions. Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, Assembly president, said that there was "a real desire for understanding; a more persistent effort at conciliation - even though at times it did not always succeed; and a real awareness of the great issues of war and peace..." Dr. Malik continued, "I do not believe that ... the general atmosphere of the world has, on our account, deteriorated. I believe, on the contrary, that we have made a modest contribution to the improvement of the atmosphere in the world.... There is an appreciable effort - a persistent effort at conciliation and understanding."

The 82nd Member A new flag flies in front of the General Assembly building on First Avenue. Following endorsement by the Security Council, the Assembly unanimously accepted Guinea as a new member of the United Nations on December 12. This former French colony in West Africa, with two and a half million people, was sponsored by Iraq, Japan, Haiti and Ghana, and her delegation immediately took its place in the Assembly Hall. Bounded by Portuguese Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and the French West African territories of Senegal, Sudan and the Ivory Coast, Guinea is an agricultural and mining country. It is the tenth country in Africa to become a member of the United Nations, compared with four when the Charter was signed in San Francisco in 1945.

World Organization versus World Community In spite of the Chairman's declaration that "there was a real desire for understanding; a more persistent effort at conciliation" it was evident that the concept of world organization was stronger than the achievement of world community. Technological changes are taking place at a rapid rate in many countries of the world. During the 13th session, for example, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and an underwriting syndicate in the United States joined to lend the equivalent of $50 million to the Union of South Africa for railway expansion and other development. And yet South Africa still refuses to relinquish her position as administrator of the Mandated Territory of South West Africa, and thus makes it impossible for the people of that great area to begin to travel along the road to independence.

An encouraging sign, however, was the formation of the new Economic Commission for Africa which held its first meeting in Addis Ababa on December 29th, 1958 with Secretary-General Dag Hammerskjold attending. The Executive Secretary is Mr. Mekki Abbas, who has been Managing Director of the Gezira Scheme, a million acre development project operated on behalf of Sudan. The tremendous changes which are taking place everywhere in the area of communications were in evidence at Addis Ababa. The Imperial Board of Telecommunications of Ethiopia announced that it would provide a collect telegram service for correspondents covering the first session of ECA.

United Nations Emergency Force For some years following the end of World War II many persons were concerned and anxious that a United Nations Police Force should be established. This has not proved feasible. To have thousands of troops "standing by," ready to be airborne at a moment's notice, has been considered unrealistic. Some type of emergency force, however, proved to be necessary at the end of 1956 during the Suez crisis, and might well be necessary again. But this ad hoc body which began to move its troops within ten days of its establishment has little in common with the concept of a Police Force as envisaged in the United Nations Charter. The Memorandum on Selected Actions of the 11th Session of the U.N. Assembly, prepared by the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs stated:

United Nations Emergency Force (con't.)

"Another development of present usefulness and promise for the future is the U. N. Emergency Force.... The 5,400 lightly armed soldiers of UNEF are not so much a military force as an extension of the peace observation system, which has long been advocated by the C.C.I.A. The procedure exemplified by this new mechanism adds another instrument for peaceful settlement. The ability of the U.N. to improvise such a scheme in a few days seems a heartening sign of flexibility and vitality."

By a vote of 51 in favor, 9 against and 17 abstentions, the General Assembly noted with satisfaction the effective way in which the Force continues to carry on its functions and requested the Administrative and Budgetary Committee to recommend such action as may be necessary to finance the continuing operation of UNEF. The United Nations has allocated costs for UNEF on the basis of the regular scale of assessments. The majority of members have thus accepted the principle that UNEF is part of the regular work of the United Nations. However, the refusal of Soviet members to pay their share of these costs poses an unresolved issue.

Refugees One of the most interesting events of the 13th session was the sponsorship of a World Refugee Year to begin in June 1959. The worldwide wave of sympathy for the Hungarian refugees in 1956 has been followed by a certain amount of apathy in most countries. But hosts of refugees awaiting resettlement still remain in Palestine, Hong Kong, Germany and parts of Asia.

Responding to a suggestion by the United Kingdom, the Third Committee recommended to the Economic and Social Council that a World Refugee Year should be established to focus public attention on the plight of refugees throughout the world. Different countries would adopt different methods: some would promote the integration of refugees into their national economies; in others assistance would be given to those who had had no help whatever; another form of action would be to extend greater legal aid to refugees. The ECOSOC resolution was adopted by the General Assembly, and in an effort to make the year of real consequence and to clear the refugee camps as soon as possible, through permanent settlement, additional funds will be sought from governments, voluntary agencies and the general public.

Effects of Atomic Radiation In December, the General Assembly requested the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation to continue its work and called upon all concerned" to assist the Committee by making available to it reports and studies relating to the short-term and long-terms effects of ionizing radiation upon man and his environment and radiological data collected by them, and by pursuing such investigations as may broaden world scientific knowledge in this sphere and by transmitting their results to the Committee."

In a unanimous report the Committee, last summer, had stated that, as far as can be determined, even the lowest level of radiation is a somatic (bodily health) and a genetic (heredity) hazard. An increased mutation rate, the Committee said, would probably lower the intelligence quotient and cut the life span of the human race.

Cyprus The matter of self determination of Cyprus and the cessation of terrorism has been before the United Nations at the ninth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the General Assembly. However, in spite of good debates, no formal resolution received the necessary two-thirds majority in the Assembly until on December 5, 1958, when the delegates, in adopting a unanimous resolution, expressed their "confidence that continued efforts will be made by the parties to reach a peaceful, democratic and just solution in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations."

Cyprus (con't.)

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs has constantly considered and worked to discover means to aid in finding a speedy solution to the Cyprus problem. They have instructed their officials to arrange for a fraternal delegation to go to Cyprus and visit the authorities of the Church of Cyprus at the first appropriate moment and to report to the officers of the Executive Committee of the C.C.I.A. on its conversations with them.

Disarmament

Four main resolutions on disarmament came before the thirteenth General Assembly:

1. The first, after noting that negotiations on the suspension of nuclear weapon tests and on the actual establishment of a nuclear control system were to begin on October 31, 1958, in Geneva, and that qualified persons were expected to meet soon to study technical aspects of measures against the possibility of a surprise attack, urged parties in the negotiations between states that have tested nuclear weapons to make every effort to reach an early agreement on the suspension of nuclear weapons tests under effective international control. The cessation of further testing of nuclear weapons while these negotiations were in process was also urged. The resolution contained the reiteration made in the twelfth General Assembly of an invitation to the states to devote out of the funds made available as a result of disarmament, additional resources to the improvement of living conditions throughout the world and especially in the less developed countries.

2. The second resolution requested the parties meeting on October 31, 1958, to report to the General Assembly on the result of their negotiations, hoping for an agreement on cessation of tests acceptable to all, and requested the Secretary-General to render all possible assistance and services at the meeting.

3. The third resolution noted that experts of several states are to meet to discuss the technical aspects of measures for the prevention of surprise attacks and expressed the hope that the widest possible measure of agreement will be achieved in the study, and again asked the Secretary-General for all possible assistance.

4. The last resolution related to the interest in and universal desire for the establishment of genuinely peaceful conditions in the world, reaffirmed the responsibility of the United Nations to search for a solution of the disarmament problem and decided that the Disarmament Commission shall for 1959, and on an ad hoc basis, be composed of all the members of the United Nations.

The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs reports that the progress of the meeting in Geneva on the cessation of testing is encouraging, although the final outcome cannot be forecast. Virtually no progress has been evident in the deliberations of the Conference of Experts dealing with warning against surprise attacks.

Algeria A resolution recognizing "the right of the Algerian people to independence" and urging negotiations between France and Algeria failed by one vote to receive the necessary 2/3 majority of the Assembly. France boycotted the debate. The vote was 35 to 18, with the U.S. among the 28 abstainers.

Economic Development and the Special Fund An outstanding achievement of the session was establishment of the United Nations Special Fund by an unopposed vote of 77. This Fund

Economic Development and the Special Fund (con't.)

will supplement the Expanded Program of Technical Assistance, and will concentrate on projects that are basic to capital investment and economic development, for example, surveys of resources and organization of training institutes. Paul G. Hoffman, former Administrator of the Marshall Plan, is the Managing Director, and the initial budget is estimated at $26,000,000. The Fund was proposed by the U.S., which abstained on a resolution urging member states to continue working for establishment of a UN capital development fund (such as SUNFED).

The General Assembly also called on member states to review accomplishments to date regarding economic development and to chart their courses for the future. It requested the Secretary-General to report on measures "for the channelling of an increasing flow of private capital into the development of underdeveloped countries." The C.C.I.A. Memorandum on Selected Actions of the 13th session of the General Assembly stated:

> "One of the heartening signs of increasing maturity in the U.N. debates on economic and social development is the mounting evidence of greater awareness of the importance of what might be called the strategy of development. In contrast with the piece-meal approaches of the past, more attention is being paid to the need for an overall approach, taking into account the various public and private factors of assistance and seeing them in relation to unmet and changing needs. The importance of tempo in a successful development strategy is gradually being seen. And little by little the U.N. is coming to see its responsibility as a kind of 'general staff' for this modern war against the ancient enemies of poverty, ill health, and ignorance. Without exaggerating the progress to date towards a more responsible approach, it is possible to note some steps forward."

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In all, 486 committee meetings were held, 103 of them being meetings of the Fourth Committee which deals with trusteeship matters and items relating to non-self-governing territories.

Reconvening of the 13th session On February 20, 1959, the General Assembly will reconvene to "consider exclusively" the future of the two African trust territories of the Cameroons under French administration, and the Cameroons under British administration, which have both reached the threshold of independence.

Other United Nations Meetings and Observances in the first part of 1959

Trusteeship Council - January 30 to March 13
Human Rights Commissions - March 16 to April 10
Social Commission - April 27 to May 15
World Health Day - April 7

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